

CLAIMS

1. A system for automatically retrieving and playing multimedia files,
comprising:

an interface through which access to a data network may be attained;

5 a scheduler which is configurable to receive a listing of multimedia files organized
according to a predetermined criteria which are accessible on at least one multimedia
website;

a selection interface which provides for presentation of the listing, and is configured
to receive and process selections for accessing selected multimedia files from the at least one
10 multimedia website and compiling a download schedule; and

a file download device, which based on the download schedule, automatically
accesses the remote sites through the interface and downloads the selected multimedia file.

2. The system of claim 1 further including a centralized website employable for
generating the listing based on connections established with the at least one multimedia
15 website and providing the listing to the scheduler.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the data network is the Internet.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the interface, scheduler, selection interface,
and download device are configured on a personal computer.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of: the scheduler, the selection
20 interface, and the file download device are configured as plugins in a web browser installed
in the personal computer.

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6. The system of claim 1 wherein the selection interface includes at least one of:
a first selection for real time play of the multimedia files which are downloaded; and

a second selection for storing in a memory the multimedia files which are downloaded in memory.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein an interface is provided for selecting categories from which the listing is created.

5 8. The system of claim 6 further including a memory to which the multimedia files may be downloaded.

9. The system of claim 6 wherein the system includes a media player for playing the multimedia files in real time.

10. A method of retrieving multimedia files over a data network from a remote site in connection with the data network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a listing for the multimedia files for accessing multimedia files on at least one multimedia website;

5 presenting an interactive interface which includes the listing and through which individual selections may be made for downloading the multimedia files from the at least one multimedia website;

receiving an input through the interface selecting a particular number of the multimedia files from the listing;

10 compiling a download schedule based on the received inputs, wherein the schedule includes a description of the multimedia file selected, day and time for the download, and download information; and

based on the inputs received through the interface, accessing and downloading over the data network, the selected multimedia files from selected remote sites.

15 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising at least one of the following additional steps:

storing the multimedia files in memory; and

playing the selected multimedia files.

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20 12. The method of claim 11 further only a predetermined number of multimedia files may be stored in memory.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the multimedia files are retrieved according to a time schedule.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the data network is the Internet.

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15. The method of claim 10 wherein the multimedia files include at least one of:
a video file;
an audio file;

5 16. The method of claim 13 wherein any scheduling conflicts between the playing
of multimedia files is automatically resolved.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the listing is created based on topical
categories.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the topical categories are amended based on
the received inputs.

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A4 19. The method of claim wherein the listing is created and transmitted
automatically on a periodic basis.